MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

THE STRANGEST SUPER-HEROES OF ALL!

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the X-MEN

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IN THE SENSATIONAL FANTASTIC FOUR STYLE!

I'VE BEATEN THE X-MEN BEFORE AND I SHALL DO IT AGAIN! BUT *THIS* TIME IT WILL BE... *FOREVER!!*

STAY BACK, ALL OF YOU! THOSE ARE THE ORDERS OF PROFESSOR X!!

THE X-MEN HAD TO FIND OUT... HOW DO YOU BEAT A MUTANT WHO IS.. *UNBEATABLE?!!*

A BOOK-LENGTH MARVEL CLASSIC:

"NOTHING CAN STOP THE VANISHER!"...

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X-MEN
THE STRANGEST SUPER-HEROES OF ALL TIME!

"NO ONE CAN STOP THE VANISHER!"

WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE
DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY
INKED BY: PAUL REINMAN
LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN

FASTER! PROFESSOR X IS WAITING FOR US!

PROFESSOR X MUST HAVE A NEW *MISSION* FOR US!

WE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THOSE DRATTED *WINGS* OF YOURS, ANGEL!

GANGWAY! KIDS! HERE COMES THE *BEAST!*

WHEEE! THIS HAS *RUNNING* BEAT ALL HOLLOW!

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN A BOOK-LENGTH TALE WHICH YOU'LL NEVER FORGET! AND NOW, LET US FOLLOW THE EXTRAORDINARY *X-MEN* AS THEY ANSWER AN URGENT MENTAL SUMMONS FROM THEIR MYSTERIOUS LEADER, *PROFESSOR X*...

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THE ANGEL CAN *KEEP* HIS WINGS! I'VE GOT MY *OWN* WAYS TO MAKE TIME!

HERE'S WHERE THE *BEAST* CATCHES HIMSELF THE NEW HAVEN COMMUTER SPECIAL TO WESTCHESTER!

JUST GIVE ME A WALL WITH DEEP ENOUGH RIDGES TO SINK MY TOES INTO AND WATCH MY STEAM! BETTER HURRY... I HEAR THE TRAIN COMING NOW!

RIGHT ON SCHEDULE... JUST LIKE *ME!*

I'VE EVEN GOT A TRAIN TICKET... IF THE CONDUCTOR DOESN'T MIND CLIMBING TO THE ROOF OF THE CAR TO PUNCH IT!

MEANWHILE, THE ANGEL SUFFERS A TEMPORARY SET-BACK AS HE LANDS FOR A MOMENT TO REST HIS OVER-TAXED WINGS!

LOOK! IT'S THE *ANGEL!*

HOLD HIM! I WANT HIS AUTO-GRAPH!

AUTOGRAPH, *NOTHING!* I WANT A *KISS!* M.MM *MMM!*

GIRLS... LET GO! I'M IN A HURRY!

AW, C'MON!

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL CAN USE A LITTLE HELP FROM EARTH-BOUND *MARVEL GIRL!*

FUN TIME'S *OVER,* CHICKADEES! THIS ISN'T SADIE HAWKINS DAY!!

CAREFUL, JEANIE! REMEMBER, DR. X. TOLD YOU NOT TO STRAIN YOUR TELEPORTATION POWERS!

WE..WE'RE *FLYING!!*

WOW! HIS KISS IS MORE POWER-FUL THAN I *THOUGHT!*

THERE!! IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ROMANCE, TRY A MOVIE!

THANKS, BEAUTIFUL! BUT DID YOU HAVE TO BE SUCH AN EAGER-BEAVER?? I WAS BEGINNING TO ENJOY IT!

A TEEN-AGER'S TEARS

STARRI TUES WEL

WARREN WORTHINGTON THE THIRD! WILL YOU KINDLY REMEMBER YOU'RE AN X-MAN NOW, AND NOT A SCHOOL-BOY ROMEO!? IF YOU... OH..I..I FEEL FAINT!

NATURALLY, JEANIE! THE PROF WARNED YOU NOT TO MOVE ANY-THING THAT WEIGHS MORE THAN YOU CAN PHYSICALLY CARRY! BUT FEAR NOT, FAIR DAMSEL, YOU CAN RELAX IN MY ARMS!

MEANWHILE, CYCLOPS AND ICEMAN ARE INTERRUPTED BY A STARTLING SIGHT...

ICEMAN!! LOOK AT THAT WALL!

IT'S GONNA CRASH DOWN ON THAT CONSTRUCTION CREW BELOW!! AND WE'RE TOO FAR AWAY TO HELP!

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, SONNY! JUST WAIT TILL I LIFT MY POWER VISOR!

SHIELD YOUR EYES, BOBBY! I'M GIVING IT FULL INTENSITY!

INSTANTANEOUSLY, AS CYCLOPS' POWER BLAST STRIKES THE FALLING WALL, THE BRICKS AND MORTAR TURN TO A HARMLESS FINE POWDER ...

HOLY COW! LOOK AT THAT!

SAY! YOU'RE CYCLOPS, AREN'T YOU? ONE OF THE X-MEN! I NEVER THOUGHT YOU JOKERS WERE FOR REAL! PUT IT THERE, PAL!

IF NOT FOR YOU, FELLA, WE'D BE PINNED UNDER THAT WALL BY NOW! HOW'D YOU DO IT?

SORRY, GENTS! HAVEN'T TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW! WE'RE ON A MISSION!

WHAT IS THIS, A GAG?? I SHAKE YOUR FROZEN HAND AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENS TO MY GLOVE!

THAT'S THE WAY THE COOKIE CRUMBLES, CHUM!

MY GLOVE, TOO! IT'S TURNING INTO ICE CUBES!

SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE DARING DUO BREAK AWAY...

WE'VE GOT TO STEP ON IT, BOBBY! THE PROFESSOR WILL HAVE OUR HIDES FOR BEING SO LATE!

STOP THE PRESSES, PARTNER! THERE'S JUST THE KIND OF TRANSPORTATION I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

A SHORT TIME LATER, A SMALL WHITE VEHICLE PULLS TO A STOP IN FRONT OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, NESTLED ON A SECLUDED FEW ACRES IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK'S WESTCHESTER COUNTY!

IS THIS THE PLACE YOU WANTED, SON?

YES! NOW JUST WAIT TILL I LET YOUR OTHER PASSENGER OUT OF THE REAR COMPARTMENT!

OKAY, ICEMAN! LAST STOP... ALL OUT!

THANKS, PAL! IT WAS A REAL COOL RIDE! SAY, WHY THE OUTSTRETCHED PAW? WE PAID YOU FOR THE RIDE IN ADVANCE!

SURE! BUT I ALSO WANT TO COLLECT FOR THOSE THREE CHOCOLATE-CHIP POPS YOU ATE IN THERE!

Merry Moppet ICE CREAM POPS

AND, WITHIN THE SILENT HALLS OF THE SOMBER BUILDING, A STRANGE, BROODING MAN SITS MOTIONLESS! AND THEN, THE VERY AIR AROUND HIM SEEMS TO CRACKLE WITH THE URGENCY OF HIS POWERFUL MENTAL COMMAND!

X-MEN! ENTER!

ASSEMBLE BEFORE ME... AT ONCE!!

SORRY WE'RE *LATE*, SIR!

WE WERE DELAYED BY A...

I KNOW! I FOLLOWED YOUR PROGRESS *MENTALLY!* YOUR THOUGHTS WERE CLEAR TO ME! NO FURTHER EXPLANATIONS ARE NECESSARY!

MAY WE KNOW THE *REASON* FOR YOUR SUMMONS, SIR?

WHEN WILL YOU *LEARN*, ANGEL? HE'LL TELL US WHEN HE'S *READY!*

I AM READY *NOW!* ALL OF YOU, FACE THAT WALL! I SHALL PROJECT A SERIES OF MENTAL IMAGES FOR YOU!

WOW! WHO'S THE COSTUMED CLOWN? IS THIS A *GAG?*

SILENCE! NO TALKING!! NOT UNTIL I CONCLUDE THIS PRESENTATION!

YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE NEWEST MENACE TO HUMAN-KIND! HE CALLS HIMSELF *THE VANISHER!* I MENTALLY DETECTED HIS HOSTILE PRESENCE IN THE CITY EARLIER TODAY, AND I MONITORED HIS ACTIVITIES!

WELL, *WHOEVER* HE IS, *WE'LL* TAKE CARE OF HIM!

OOPS! SORRY, PROFESSOR! I FORGOT MYSELF!

"GIVE YOURSELF ONE DEMERIT, ICEMAN! NOW CONCENTRATE, MY X-MEN! I SHALL MENTALLY PROJECT THEIR DIALOGUE FOR YOU..."

BOY! WE GET ALL *KINDS* ON OUR BEAT! OKAY, BUDDY! WHY THE GET-UP??

THERE IS NO LAW AGAINST WEARING A COSTUME, AND YOU *KNOW* IT!!

NOW DIRECT ME TO THE METRO NATIONAL BANK! I INTEND TO ROB IT!

SURE, SURE! I KNOW... THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST HAVING *INTENTIONS*, EITHER! STEP RIGHT THIS WAY, ODDBALL!

AND SO...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SMITHERS! GIVE HIM THE MONEY! I DON'T WANT ANY SHOOTING IN MY BANK!

SURE! WE'LL NAB HIM AS SOON AS HE GETS OUTSIDE! GOOD THING THE POLICE **WARNED** US ABOUT THAT NUT!

QUICKLY! HAND OVER THE MONEY! MY PATIENCE WEARS THIN!

MMM, A NICE TIDY SUM! I IMAGINE THIS WILL DO FOR A START!

HE'S **REALLY** NOT WITH IT! HE PUT AWAY HIS GUN TO **COUNT** THE CASH!

NO CHANCE OF ANYONE GETTING HURT NOW! LET'S **TAKE** HIM BEFORE HE STARTS CUTTING PAPER DOLLS!

AND NOW, LET US SEE IF YOU **STILL** THINK ME MAD... AFTER I HAVE **VANISHED!**

WHERE'D HE **GO??**

HE DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!

MY MONEY! IT'S **GONE! HELP! POLICE!**

THUS ENDS YOUR BRIEFING, MY X-MEN! **THAT** IS THE FOE YOU WILL NEXT ENCOUNTER... THE **VANISHER!**

H-HOW DID HE **DO** IT?? IS HE A **MUTANT**... LIKE US, SIR?

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN... BUT, I SUSPECT HE IS!

AW, SO **WHAT??** MUTANT OR NOT, **WE'LL** HANDLE HIM! WAIT'LL HE GETS A TASTE OF MY MACHINE-GUN **ICE PELLETS! ZOWEEE!**

MARVEL GIRL! QUICKLY! SHOW ME HOW YOU WOULD **DEFEND** YOURSELF AGAINST AN ATTACK SUCH AS ICEMAN'S!

GO TO IT, GORGEOUS! TEACH THAT IMMATURE IDIOT A LESSON, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

IT'S SIMPLE, SIR! ALL I NEED DO IS USE MY MENTAL POWER OF TELEPORTATION TO GATHER UP THE ICE PELLETS...

...AND THEN HURL THEM RIGHT *BACK* AT OUR IMPETUOUS FROZEN FRIEND... LIKE *THIS!!*

HEY! LOOK OUT! WHEW! GOOD THING I'M ABLE TO WHIP UP AN *ICE SHIELD* WHEN I NEED ONE!

THAT'S NOT *FAIR!* WE DIDN'T *HAVE* A SHIELD TO USE!

ENOUGH! GIVE ME YOUR ATTENTION NOW! SUCH BATTERING TACTICS WILL DO YOU NO GOOD AGAINST A FOE LIKE THE VANISHER!

WELL, THEN, WHAT...???

I SUSPECT THAT THE *VANISHER IS* A MUTANT... EVEN AS *WE* ARE! THAT MEANS HE WAS BORN WITH A *SPECIAL* POWER!

AND, IN ORDER TO COMBAT HIS UN-CANNY POWER, YOU WILL NEED A *SPECIALIZED* FORM OF TRAINING! THEREFORE I WANT YOU ALL TO ENTER THE *DANGER ROOM!*

THE *DANGER ROOM!* A HUGE UNFURNISHED CHAMBER WHICH HOUSES COUNTLESS HIDDEN PERILS!

ANGEL! YOUR TEST SHALL BE THE FIRST! YOU ARE TO FLY TO THE CENTER OF THE CHAMBER, AND CIRCLE THE ROOM AT *TOP SPEED!*

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR MISSILES WHICH SHALL HURTLE TOWARDS YOU UNEXPECTEDLY!

ROGER, SIR!

THERE GO THE FIRST FEW MISSILES! SO FAR, THIS TEST IS A *SNAP!*

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AND NOW... NOW THAT YOU ARE RELAXED, AND OFF-GUARD...

QUICKLY! PRETEND THIS MISSILE IS THE VANISHER! MATCH ITS SPEED AND CATCH IT BEFORE IT ELUDES YOU!

SNNIK!

GOT TO CATCH IT! GOT TO!

CRAAAK!

I FAILED! IT...IT WAS TOO FAST FOR ME!

EXHAUSTED!! TOO GREAT A STRAIN...! CAN'T STAY ALOFT! ...MUST REST...

RETRIEVE THE ANGEL! BRING HIM TO ME! INSTANTLY!

HEART...BLOOD-PRESSURE...BOTH SATISFACTORY! BUT WE MUST BUILD UP YOUR RESISTANCE!

YES SIR!

THE ANGEL HAS HIGH POTENTIAL! WE MUST SEE THAT HE ATTAINS IT!

I'M YOUR BOY FOR HI-POTENTIAL, PROF! SAY, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A BREAK-FAST CEREAL!

VERY WELL, BEAST! I SHALL TEST YOU NEXT!

AW, I'M WISE TO THOSE OL' MECHANICAL HANDS! I CAN DODGE THEM EASY!

OF COURSE YOU CAN! YOU GET MORE DIFFICULT TO TRAP EVERY DAY!

THAT'S 'CAUSE I'M SMARTER THAN THE OTHERS, HUH?

NO! MERELY MORE OVER-CONFIDENT!

YIIII!

WHERE'D THIS HOLE IN THE FLOOR COME FROM??

GOT TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE MYSELF!

MY ARMS! IF I REACH OUT... PRESS AGAINST THE SIDES...THEY'LL HOLD ME!

UGHH! GOTTA STRAIGHTEN MYSELF OUT! TENSE MY MUSCLES! IT...IT'S AGONY! MY ARMS ARE KILLIN' ME!

BUT I'VE GOT TO STAY WITH IT! CAN'T FLUNK THIS TEST! CAN'T!

I'M IN POSITION NOW! ONE..TWO..THREE... GO!

BEAST! YOU DID IT!

HEY! NOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON ???

YOU JUST RELAX, HANK! YOU'VE BEEN UNDER ENOUGH STRAIN! I'LL HELP YOU DOWN GENTLY!

I'D LIKE TO HELP THAT BIG GORILLA! WITH A CACTUS PLANT!

WELL DONE, HANK McCOY! YOUR MUSCULAR TENSILE STRENGTH IS INCREASING AT A MOST SATISFACTORY RATE!

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST TESTING MY REFLEXES! BOY, YOU'RE ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD OF US, SIR!

AND IT'S LUCKY FOR US THAT HE IS, BEAST! CONSIDERING THAT WE HAVE ALL PUT OUR DESTINIES IN THE HANDS OF PROFESSOR X!

MEANWHILE, A FEW HUNDRED MILES TO THE SOUTH, THE VANISHER NEXT APPEARS INSIDE THE MIGHTY PENTAGON BUILDING...

HOLD IT, MISTER! NOBODY GOES PAST HERE WITHOUT A PERMIT!

PERMITS ARE FOR HOMO SAPIENS, FOOL! NOT FOR THE VANISHER!

FOR I AM INDEED A TRUE MUTANT... ONE OF THOSE DESTINED TO REPLACE THE HUMAN RACE! I AM HOMO SUPERIOR!

HE-HE VANISHED!

CHIEF OF STAFF

AND, NEARBY, IN A LOCKED, HEAVILY-GUARDED CONFERENCE ROOM...

LET'S REVIEW THOSE CONTINENTAL DEFENSE PLANS AGAIN, HENDERSHOOT!

YES, SIR, GENERAL! WE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL OF OUR PROCEDURES!

BE SURE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF THOSE PLANS, GENTLEMEN! FOR THEY WILL SOON BE MINE!

I INTEND TO STEAL THEM WITHIN A FEW DAYS!

IT'S THE VANISHER! H-HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE!

HAVEN'T YOU **GUESSED** YET?? AS A TRUE MUTANT... AS A MEMBER OF **HOMO SUPERIOR**, I HAVE THE ABILITY TO **TELEPORT MYSELF** TO ANY PLACE I CAN THINK OF... AT UNIMAGINABLE SPEED!

SO **THAT'S** HOW YOU VANISH... BY MENTALLY TRAVELING TO ANOTHER PLACE!

PREPOSTEROUS! PURE SCIENCE FICTION BALDERDASH! I DON'T BELIEVE A **WORD** OF IT!

THEN PERHAPS **THIS** WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND!

REMEMBER, IN A FEW DAYS THOSE DEFENSE PLANS SHALL BE **MINE**!

HE'S **GONE!**

AND HE'S SO SURE OF HIS POWERS THAT HE DIDN'T BOTHER TAKING THE PLANS **NOW**! HE PREFERS TO LET US **WORRY** ABOUT HIM FOR A FEW DAYS FIRST!

LATER, AFTER READING OF HIS INCREDIBLE EXPLOITS IN THE NEWSPAPERS, EVERY DENIZEN OF THE UNDERWORLD WHO ISN'T IN PRISON FLOCKS TO THE SIDE OF THE SEEMINGLY INVINCIBLE VANISHER!

NAME YOUR TERMS, VANISHER! WE'RE **WITH** YA!

SURE! WE'RE YOUR BOYS, PAL! YOU'RE THE BOSS!

HOORAY FOR THE VANISHER!

BACK, ALL OF YOU!

I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE!

SHUDDUP, YOU GUYS!! THE VANISHER'S GONNA SAY SOMETHIN'!

IT IS ONLY **FITTING** THAT **HOMO SUPERIOR** SHOULD BE SERVED BY THE INFERIOR **HOMO SAPIENS**! THEREFORE, I SHALL ALLOW YOU TO BECOME MY LACKEYS!

THREE CHEERS FOR THE **VANISHER!**

YEAH! WITH **HIM** ON OUR SIDE, WE'LL **NEVER** GO TO JAIL!

I HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED TO THE PENTAGON THAT I INTEND TO STEAL THE ARMY'S CONTINENTAL DEFENSE PLANS! I'LL GIVE THEM A WHILE LONGER TO MARVEL AT MY POWER, AND THEN...

BEFORE THEY KNOW IT, THE PLANS SHALL BE **MINE**! AND **THEN** I MAKE MY **NEXT** MOVE... THE MOST **DARING** MOVE IN THE HISTORY OF CRIME!!

MEANTIME, THE TRAINING OF THE X-MEN CONTINUES!

ARE YOU SURE IT'S *SAFE* TO LET *MARVEL GIRL* HANDLE SO HEAVY A WEIGHT, SIR?

NOTHING ABOUT OUR LITTLE "BUSINESS" IS SAFE, CYCLOPS!

NOW BE *SILENT!* I MUST CONCENTRATE!

GROWING TIRED... CAN'T HOLD THE WEIGHT MUCH LONGER... TOO LARGE TO HURL AWAY... IT WILL *FALL* ON ME! WH..WHAT CAN I *DO??*

SHE HAS REACHED THE POINT OF NO RETURN! *CYCLOPS!* TO HER AID!

YES, SIR!

HOLD ON, JEANIE! JUST LET ME LIFT MY POWER VISOR AND THEN...

HURRY! PLEASE *HURRY!*

THERE, LITTLE LADY! IT'LL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE *THAT* TESTING DEVICE CAN BOTHER US AGAIN!

OH, CYCLOPS! WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU?

BOBBY! STOP! WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

"OH, CYCLOPS! WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE *WITHOUT* YOU?" *RATS!* ANY *ONE* OF US COULD HAVE SAVED YOU!

HERE, CYCLOPS! IF YOU'RE SUCH A GALLANT PRINCE CHARMING, HERE'S A NICE ICY *HORSE* FOR YOU TO RIDE!

MINUTES, LATER, AFTER PROFESSOR X HAS RESTORED ORDER...

HOW'S *THIS* FOR AN EMERGENCY *GRAPPLE?*

FINE, BOBBY... BUT KEEP IT QUIET! THE PROF IS THINKING!

PROFESSOR X CALLING F-B-I. AGENT DUNCAN! DO YOU READ ME, AGENT DUNCAN?

AND IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL, AT F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS, SPECIAL AGENT FRED DUNCAN DONS A STRANGE-LOOKING SCALP DEVICE, GIVEN TO HIM BY THE AMAZING LEADER OF THE X-MEN!

IT'S EXACTLY FIVE MINUTES PAST THE HOUR, FRED...THE PRE-ARRANGED TIME! RECEIVING ANYTHING?

YES!! HIS THOUGHTS GROW CLEARER EACH TIME! THE MAN'S MENTAL PROWESS IS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE!

PLEASE RELATE THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE VANISHER! YOUR PSIONIC HEADBAND WILL MAGNIFY YOUR BRAIN IMPULSES ENOUGH TO BE INTELLIGIBLE TO ME!

THE VANISHER HAS THREATENED TO STEAL OUR CONTINENTAL DEFENSE PLANS! WE ARE EXPECTING HIS ATTACK AT ANY MOMENT!

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL AFFAIRS

I SHALL CONTACT YOU LATER! OVER AND OUT!

I SUSPECTED THAT MIGHT BE HIS LIKELY NEXT MOVE!

ATTENTION, X-MEN! WE DEPART FOR *WASHINGTON, D.C.* WITHIN THE HOUR! REMAIN IN UNIFORM AND ASSEMBLE AT THE GARAGE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES! THAT IS ALL!

GUESS THAT MEANS WE TACKLE THE VANISHER! RIGHT, SIR?

WHAT CHANCE DOES HE HAVE AGAINST ALL OF *US?*

THIS IS *GREAT!* I'VE SOME NEW FLYING MANEUVERS I'M JUST ITCHING TO TRY OUT!

A SHORT TIME LATER, A McDONNELL XV-1 CONVERTIPLANE, WHICH HAS BEEN PUT AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE X-MEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL AFFAIRS, TAKES OFF FOR THEIR ENCOUNTER WITH... *THE VANISHER!*

I FEEL LIKE A V.I.P. IN THIS SPECIAL MILITARY AIR TAXI! HOW ABOUT *YOU* GUYS?

WHADDYA *MEAN* YOU *FEEL* LIKE A V.I.P.? IF *WE* AREN'T IMPORTANT, WHO *IS?!*

I TRUST YOU YOUNGSTERS WILL *STILL* FEEL SO IMPORTANT *AFTER* YOU HAVE FOUGHT THE VANISHER!

OUR SCENE NOW SHIFTS TO THE PENTAGON, WHERE FOUR HEAVILY-ARMED GUARDS MAINTAIN A TENSE VIGIL, WITH THE NATION'S ULTRA-IMPORTANT CONTINENTAL DEFENSE PLANS BETWEEN THEM...

SEE ANYTHING, MEN?

NOPE! NOTHING YET!

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN! HE COULD APPEAR *ANYTIME!*

YOU ARE SO *RIGHT*, HOMO SAPIENS!! - - - THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THOSE PLANS SAFE FOR ME!

IT'S *HIM!* *GRAB HIM*, BEFORE HE GETS AWAY!

RUSH HIM, ALL AT ONCE.. *NOW!*

GOT HIM! HUH...?? WHERE'D HE *GO??*

HE VANISHED! B-BUT *HOW?*

IT'S NOT *POSSIBLE!* BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!

AND, IN THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE, THE VANISHER REAPPEARS, CONTINUING TO PLAY A CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME WITH HIS HARRASSED OPPONENTS!

GET HIM! HE GOT THE PLANS!

THAT'S *IT!* HOLD ME TIGHT! VERY GOOD! AND NOW, HUMAN... *WATCH!*

WHA...WHAT DOES HE EXPECT TO DO *NOW?!*

HE'S *UNBEATABLE!* IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD HIM!

NO *WONDER* HE CALLS US *HUMAN!* *HE* SURE AIN'T!

CONTINUING HIS INCREDIBLE PROGRESS, THE VANISHER NEXT APPEARS ON THE BUILDING'S STEPS, WHERE HE IS CONFRONTED BY...

THE X-MEN!

AT YOUR SERVICE, MISTER! NOW *DROP THOSE PLANS!*

HE *IS* A TRUE MUTANT! I CAN *FEEL* IT... I CAN *SENSE* IT!

WHEN AN X-MAN TELLS YOU TO DO SOMETHING, BUSTER... YOU DO IT, UNDERSTAND??!

BAH! YOUR EMPTY THREATS CANNOT FRIGHTEN THE VANISHER!

OH, NO? SUPPOSE WE JUST TAKE A LITTLE TRIP "UPSTAIRS", AND SEE IF WE CAN CHANGE YOUR TUNE!

FOOL! HEIGHT DOES NOT BOTHER ME!

I CAN VANISH FROM ONE PLACE JUST AS EASILY AS FROM ANOTHER ... LIKE THIS!!

HE DROPPED THE PLANS! I'VE GOT 'EM!

WE DID IT! WE DEFEATED THE VANISHER! AND... IT WAS SO EASY!

LOOKA ME! A REGULAR HERO! I'LL PROBABLY BE INVITED ON THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW!

IF YOU ARE, IT WILL ONLY BE FOR YOUR NOVELTY VALUE ... AS A FREAK!

HE'S BACK AGAIN! HE WAS ONLY TOYING WITH US!

HEY! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?? WAIT! GIVE ME BACK THAT CASE! I...I... BOY! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON YOU...!!

STAY BACK, BEAST! I'LL GET THAT CASE AWAY FROM HIM WITH MY ***POWER BEAM!*** THERE...***GRAB IT,*** MARVEL GIRL! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

GOOD SHOT, CYCLOPS!! OKAY, GORGEOUS! USE MANEUVER EIGHTEEN! YOU'VE PRACTICED IT OFTEN ENOUGH!

DON'T WORRY, BOYS! I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

YOU'RE KEEPING IT ***FROM*** ME BY ***MENTAL POWER!*** YOU... ***YOU'RE*** A MUTANT, TOO!

THAT'S ***RIGHT,*** VANISHER! THERE ARE ***GOOD*** ONES AS WELL AS BAD!

OUR PRIME MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RACE FROM THE LIKES OF YOU!

THANKS FOR WARNING ME WHAT I'M UP AGAINST! NOW I'LL JUST PUT ***YOU*** OUT OF THE WAY FOR THE TIME BEING!

SLEEPING GAS! X-MEN... HELP!!

HE TRICKED MARVEL GIRL! ***I'LL*** GET HIM!

OUR ***FIRST*** JOB IS TO GET THOSE PLANS AWAY FROM HIM, ONCE AND FOR ALL! SO, I'LL JUST MAKE THE CASE TOO ***COLD*** TO HANDLE...

YOU'RE TOO ***LATE!*** THESE CHILDISH STUNTS WON'T STOP ***ME!***

I'LL MERELY VANISH AGAIN, TO REAPPEAR INSTANTANEOUSLY AT A ***WARMER*** SPOT WHICH WILL ***MELT*** YOUR ICE... LIKE ***THIS!!***

HECK!...IF HE HAD BEEN A SPLIT-SECOND SLOWER, I COULD HAVE NAILED HIM WITH AN ICY FIST!!

JEAN! ARE YOU OKAY, KID?

Y-YES! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE VANISHER?

HE GOT AWAY... PLANS AND ALL!

HE TOOK EVERY-THING WE COULD DISH OUT... AND HE BEAT US BUT *GOOD!*

MAYBE THIS'LL TEACH US NOT TO THINK WE'RE SO *UNBEAT-ABLE!*

PROFESSOR X WAS RIGHT... WE STILL NEED MORE TRAINING!

I NEVER EVEN LAID A HAND ON HIM...NOT EVEN ONCE!

CHEER UP, GROUP! IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD...! *NOBODY* BATS A THOUSAND!

NEXT DAY, THE NEWS OF THE X-MEN'S DEFEAT SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE!

EXTRA! EXTRA!! VANISHER MAKES MONKEYS OUT OF X-MEN! *EXTRA!!*

STAR-BU

VANISHER STEALS DEFENSE PLANS!

X-MEN FAIL IN ATTEMPT TO HALT THEFT!

I *KNEW* IT! THE X-MEN ARE NOTHING BUT OVER-RATED PHONIES! IF THEY WERE *REALLY* SO GREAT, THEY WOULDN'T KEEP THEIR IDENTITIES A SECRET!

STA

VANI

DE

AND, AS THE HOURS SPEED BY, TEMPERS GET FRAYED...NERVES GET RAW...AS PANIC SEEMS TO MOUNT AMONG THE POPULACE...

IF THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THAT VANISHER, I'M ALL FOR SKIPPIN' TOWN! NO TELLIN' *WHAT* HE'LL DO NEXT!

WHAT GOOD WILL *RUNNING* DO? HE CAN BE *ANYWHERE!* THERE'S *NO* PLACE THAT'S SAFE!

THEY SAY HE BEAT THE X-MEN WITHOUT EVEN HALF-TRYING! CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW *POWERFUL* HE MUST BE!?

WHILE, AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

FLASH! THE VANISHER HAS JUST DEMANDED TEN MILLION DOLLARS, TAX-FREE, FROM THE GOVERNMENT, AS HIS PRICE FOR NOT TURNING OUR CONTINENTAL DEFENSE PLANS OVER TO THE COMMUNISTS!

IT'S PURE *BLACKMAIL!* ON THE LARGEST SCALE EVER ATTEMPTED!

I WAS RIGHT *NEXT* TO HIM...AND I COULDN'T LAY A HAND ON HIM!

YOU AND THOSE FLAPPIN' WINGS OF YOURS SURE WEREN'T ANY HELP!

THEY DID AS MUCH GOOD AS THAT CORNY SNOWBALL FIST OF *YOURS!*

AND I'VE **WARNED** YOU ABOUT STANDING TOO CLOSE TO ME! I HATE CHILLS! HERE... **THIS'LL** THAW YOU OUT A LITTLE!

HEY! KNOCK IT OFF! WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO, YOU OVER-GROWN PARAKEET?!!

HERE! THIS QUICK-DRYIN' LIQUID ICE WILL SLOW YOU DOWN! DEFROST **THAT** IF YOU CAN!

CALL **ME** A PARAKEET, WILL YOU? JUST WAIT TILL I GET YOU ALONE, YOU TALKING ESKIMO PIE!

HOLD STILL, ANGEL! I'LL HAVE THAT MELTED IN NO TIME!

EASY, CYCLOPS! JUST MELT THE **ICE!** LEAVE THE **WING,** HUH?

TOO BAD YOU WEREN'T AS GOOD WITH THAT BLAMED ICE OF YOURS AGAINST THE **VANISHER** AS YOU ARE AGAINST **US!**

COME TO ATTENTION **IMMEDIATELY,** STUDENTS! I'VE HAD **ENOUGH** OF YOUR CHILDISH ANTICS! TURN AND FACE ME... **ALL** OF YOU!

I HAVE LEFT YOU TO YOUR OWN DEVICES UNTIL NOW! ACTUALLY, YOU HAVE NOT DONE BADLY, CONSIDERING YOUR YOUTH, AND YOUR LACK OF EXPERIENCE! FOR YOU WERE UP AGAINST A MOST POWERFUL FOE!

BUT THE TIME HAS COME FOR **ME** TO ENTER THE PICTURE...TO SHOW YOU THAT SOMETIMES BRUTE STRENGTH IS NOT ENOUGH!

CYCLOPS, WHAT DO YOU FIGURE HE **MEANS** BY THAT?

QUIET, BEAST! WE'LL FIND OUT, SOON ENOUGH!

WHEN YOU NEXT GO TO WASHINGTON, **I** SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU MYSELF! BUT FIRST, I HAVE SOMETHING TO **SHOW** YOU! OBSERVE THIS!

"THIS IS A STROBE PROJECTION SHOWING THE VANISHER DIS-APPEARING! HIS DISAPPEARANCE WAS PHOTOGRAPHED AT A SPEED OF 20,000 FRAMES A SECOND!"

"NOTICE THAT EVEN WITH THIS SUPER-HIGH-SPEED CAMERA, IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO ANALYZE THE VANISHER'S ABILITY TO INSTANTLY TRANSPORT HIMSELF!"

"HIS SPEED IS SO UNBELIEVABLY FAST THAT IT DEFIES DESCRIPTION! THEREFORE, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS ONLY **ONE** WAY TO BEAT HIM! AND THIS IS MY PLAN..."

THE NEXT DAY, IN WASHINGTON, WHERE SIMILAR STROBE PHOTOS ARE BEING INTENTLY STUDIED, PROFESSOR X MAKES A HIGH PRIORITY CALL TO THE WHITE HOUSE, GIVING THE DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST THE VANISHER...

VERY WELL, SIR! I SHALL INFORM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF YOUR CALL IMMEDIATELY! THANK YOU!

AND FINALLY, THE MOMENT OF DECISION ARRIVES! IN THE VERY CENTER OF THE NATION'S CAPITOL, THE X-MEN FIND WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN NERVOUSLY WAITING FOR...

LOOK! HE'S COMING NOW! IT'S THE **VANISHER!**

HE'S GOT A SMALL ARMY OF **HOODS** WITH HIM! YOU WOULDN'T THINK HE'D **DARE!**

THEY'LL BE NO PROBLEM FOR US TO HANDLE! IT'S THE **VANISHER** HIMSELF WE MUST BE WARY OF!

STAND FAST, X-MEN! REMEMBER OUR ORDERS!

I'LL GIVE YOU COSTUMED JUVENILES EXACTLY TEN SECONDS TO CLEAR OUT OF HERE, OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES! **MY** BUSINESS DOES NOT CONCERN **YOU!**

I HAVE COME FOR MY TEN MILLION DOL-LARS! THEY WILL NOT **DARE** TO REFUSE ME!

I DON'T **LIKE** IT! HOW COME THERE AIN'T ANY TROOPS OR GUARDS AROUND?

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AND THEN, SUDDENLY, SURPRISINGLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE X-MEN STAND ASIDE, REVEALING ***ANOTHER*** FIGURE... ONE WHICH IS COMPLETELY UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE...

THE TIME IS ***NOW***, MY X-MEN! ASSUME YOUR POSITIONS!

VANISHER, I GIVE YOU ***ONE*** CHANCE TO SURRENDER TO ME! OTHERWISE I SHALL HAVE TO COUNTER ***YOUR*** POWER WITH A FORCE WHICH IS FAR ***GREATER***... FAR MORE ***TERRIBLE!***

WHAT?? YOU?!! A HELPLESS HUMAN... ALONE AND DEFENSELESS, DARES TO THREATEN ONE WHO HAS DEFEATED THE ***X-MEN??*** LET ME ***LAUGH*** AT YOU... BEFORE YOU ***PAY*** FOR YOUR INSOLENCE!

LAUGH WHILE YOU ***CAN***, EVIL ONE! FOR I AM ***NOT*** A HELPLESS HUMAN... BUT A ***MUTANT***, EVEN AS ***YOU!*** AND YOU CANNOT EVEN ***GUESS*** THE EXTENT OF MY POWER... POWER WHICH IS EVEN ***NOW*** BEING DIRECTED ***AGAINST*** YOU!!

HIS EYES! HIS VOICE! WHAT IS IT THAT FILLS MY SOUL WITH DREAD? I MUST ESCAPE HIS PRESENCE! I MUST VANISH... BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!!

WHA..WHAT HAS ***HAPPENED*** TO ME? I CANNOT CONTROL MY POWER!! ***I CANNOT VANISH!!***

WAIT!! WHAT HAS BECOME OF ME?? WHAT AM I ***DOING*** HERE? WHO IS THIS MAN WHO FACES ME? TELL ME... PLEASE TELL ME... WHO AM ***I*** ??

PLEASE... DO NOT HARM ME! I AM WEARY... SO WEARY! I MUST REST! I MUST THINK... HAVE TO LEARN WHO I AM... ***WHAT*** I AM??!

I DON'T ***GET*** IT! ONE MINUTE HE WAS THREATENING US ***ALL***... AND NOW.. HE'S LIKE A HELPLESS CHILD!

HE WILL TROUBLE US NO MORE!

BUT THEN, SENSING THAT SOME TERRIBLE MISHAP HAS BEFALLEN THEIR LEADER, HIS ARMED BAND OF CRIMINALS COME TOWARD THE X-MEN, THIRSTING FOR REVENGE!

IF THEY HARMED THE VANISHER, THEN WE LOST OUR MEAL TICKET!

GET 'EM!!

AND NOW, MY X-MEN, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE OVER!

THOSE BULLETS WON'T BE ABLE TO PENETRATE THIS ICE-SHIELD, PROFESSOR!

JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE, MEN! I WANT TO REMEMBER YOU AS YOU LOOK RIGHT NOW!

WH..WHOEVER THAT IS...STOP HIM!!

STOP HIM??! I JUST WANNA GET AWAY FROM HIM!

IT AIN'T POSSIBLE! NOBODY CAN MOVE LIKE THAT!!

THE BEAST CAN! THANKS FOR THE POP-GUNS, KIDDIES!

AND NOW, I KNOW YOU MUST BE TIRED STANDING AROUND LIKE THAT!...

...SO I'LL SEE IF I CAN FIND YOU A PLACE TO RELAX AND COOL OFF!

YEOW!! LOOK OUT!

ALLOW ME, MY BESTIAL BUDDY!

THANKS, CYCLOPS! THAT'S MIGHTY NEIGHBOR-LY OF YOU!

STEP ASIDE, BOYS, AND LET A COOLER HEAD PREVAIL!

THERE! THAT'LL KEEP 'EM "ON ICE" TILL THE POLICE ARRIVE!

AND IT WON'T COST THEM A CENT, BECAUSE THE RENT IS "FROZEN"!

CALL THE COPS! EVEN JAIL WOULD BE BETTER THAN THOSE CORNY PUNS OF YOURS!

IT'S **UNCANNY!** THE PROFESSOR DEFEATED THE VANISHER BY MENTAL POWER ALONE! HE MADE THE VANISHER **FORGET** WHO HE IS...FORGET THE POWER HE HAS!

WELL, WELL! I SEE SOME OF THE VANISHER'S PLAYMATES HAVEN'T BEEN SPANKED AND PUT TO BED YET!

GET THE **GIRL,** WEASEL! SHE LOOKS HARMLESS! SHE'LL BE OUR TICKET **OUT** OF HERE!

HARMLESS, AM I? HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THREATENED BY YOUR OWN GUNS!?

SHE'S A **MAGICIAN!**

EVEN **WORSE!!** SHE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE OTHERS! DON'T SHOOT! WE GIVE UP!

PLEASE... **DO** SOMETHING! I FEEL LIKE A **NUT** PLEADING WITH A FLOATING GUN!

COME ON, YOU THREE! DON'T BE PARTY POOPS! THE FUN'S NOT **OVER** YET!

DON'T SHOOT AT HIM, YOU DUMMY! YOU'LL MAKE HIM **MADDER!**

I'LL STOP THAT HIGH-FLYING CLOWN!

HERE'S A LITTLE PHRASE I IMAGINE YOU DON'T HEAR TOO OFTEN..."PARDON MY WINGS, FELLAS!"

WHUMP!

MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE SMOKE HAS CLEARED...

YOU SHOULDN'T BE THIS CLOSE TO ALL THAT ACTION, MISTER! YOU'RE LUCKY YOU WEREN'T **HURT!**

SOMEBODY GET THIS MAN **OUT** OF HERE!

HANDS OFF THAT WHEELCHAIR! **WE'LL** DO IT!

IMAGINE.. IF THEY KNEW YOU WERE THE **LEADER** OF THE X-MEN, SIR!!

AND IT WAS **YOU** WHO DEFEATED THE VANISHER IN THE ONLY WAY POSSIBLE... **MENTALLY!**

ALWAYS REMEMBER, MY X-MEN!..THE GREATEST POWER ON EARTH IS THE MAGNIFICENT POWER WE ALL OF US POSSESS...THE POWER OF THE **HUMAN BRAIN!**

THE END.

NEXT ISSUE: THE **X-MEN** FACE THE GREATEST DANGER OF ALL, WHEN... BUT SEE FOR YOURSELF IN **X-MEN #3**...YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!

MINUTEMEN

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